

Message Text

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15

ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00

SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-07 L-02 NSC-05

PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 NIC-01 SAJ-01 SAM-01

IO-10 CU-02 /076 W

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O R 180420Z JAN 75

FM AMCONSUL HONG KONG

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3528

INFO USLO PEKING

AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

AMEMBASSY MANILA

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY RANGOON

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

C O N F I D E N T I A L HONG KONG 0670

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, CH

SUBJECT: SECOND PLENUM - MAO OUT, TENG UP

1. THE STARKLY TERSE COMMUNIQUE OF THE JANUARY 8-10 SECOND
PLENUM OF THE TENTH PARTY CONGRESS, RELEASED BY PEKING
JANUARY 17, IS HIGHLY SIGNIFICANT FOR TWO THINGS: ITS
FAILURE TO MENTION MAO TZETUNG, AND ITS ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE
PROMOTION OF TENG HSIAO-PING TO BE A VICE CHAIRMAN. HOW
THE TWO CONNECT REMAINS TO BE PROVEN, BUT WHAT COMES
IMMEDIATELY TO MIND IS THE FIFTH PLENUM OF THE EIGHT
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CONGRESS IN MAY OF 1958 WHEN, IN THE WAKE OF THE DISASTROUS

GREAT LEAP FORWARD, LIU SHAO-CHI WAS ELEVATED TO THE TOP CIRCLE AND MAO WAS QUIETLY PUT OUT TO PASTURE. (MAO FORMALLY STEPPED DOWN SEVEN MONTHS LATER AT THE SIXTH PLENUM.)

2. IT WILL BE INTERESTING TO LEARN WHETHER, AS ALL CLUES NOW SUGGEST, MAO STAYED AWAY FROM THE SECOND PLENUM MEETING AND CONTINUES HIS MONTHS-LONG SOJOURN IN THE PROVINCES. DOUBTLESS HEALTH WILL BE ADVANCED AS AN EXPLANATION, BUT THAT DODGE ITSELF IS GETTING OLD. ONE CANNOT BE SURE, HOWEVER, WHAT IS GOING ON IN CHINA. IT IS INDICATIVE OF THE DEEPLY SECRETIVE, EVEN CONSPIRATORIAL, MOOD IN PEKING THAT TENG'S PROMOTION WAS NOT SIMPLY CONCEALED FOR SEVEN DAYS; THE REGIME RESORTED TO DECEPTION JUNE 15 AT THE LI FU-CHUN FUNERAL, WHEN, IN A DEPARTURE FOR THE THEN CURRENT USE OF STROKE (ALPHABET) ORDER (HK 0611), RANK ORDER WAS USED TO LIST THE POLITBURO AND TENG WAS SHOWN IN HIS OLD POSITION, WELL DOWN THE LINE.

3. FURTHER INSIGHTS SHOULD COME SOON. THE PLENUM CLEARLY WAS PART OF THE PROCESS OF HOLDING THE FOURTH NATIONAL PEOPLES CONGRESS, WHICH WE WOULD EXPECT WILL BE ANNOUNCED SHORTLY.
CROSS

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MEETINGS, PARTY MEETINGS, PERSONNEL PROMOTIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 18 JAN 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975HONGK00670
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750020-0023
From: HONG KONG
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750140/aaaabjax.tel
Line Count: 85
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 11 JUN 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <11 JUN 2003 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <12 JUN 2003 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SECOND PLENUM - MAO OUT, TENG UP
TAGS: PINT, CH, NPC-NATIONAL PEOPLES CONGRESS, (TENG HSIAO-PING)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006